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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/784,711	02/23/2004	Haruhiko Nakatsu	CANO:122	1500

37013 7590 06/22/2006

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP.  
P.O. BOX 826  
ASHBURN, VA 20146-0826

EXAMINER

WRIGHT, KAINOA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

h'A

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/784,711	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NAKATSU, HARUHIKO	
	<b>Examiner</b> Kainoa BK Wright	<b>Art Unit</b> 2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-4 and 9-10, drawn towards an apparatus for adjusting an image on a second side of a duplex sheet by adjusting an image write start position by a correction ratio; and further by scaling the image via an adjusted image clock frequency, the clock frequency adjusted by the same correction ratio, classified in class 347, subclass 250.
  - II. Claims 5-8, 19 & 22, drawn towards an apparatus for adjusting an image on a second side of a duplex sheet by adjusting a number of image clock pulses corresponding to an image formation duration, the adjustment in accordance with an adjusted frequency, a distance from an image write start position and a beam detector, and a correction ratio; and further by using the adjusted clock pulses to determine an adjustment to an image write start position; and still further by scaling the image in accordance with the adjusted clock frequency, classified in class 347, subclass 250.
  - III. Claims 11-13 & 20, drawn towards a method and apparatus for adjusting a plurality of images of a second side of a duplex sheet within a tandem style printing system, whereby each image is adjusted separately, based on the detection of a mark located on the transfer belt, classified in class 347, subclass 234.

- IV. Claims 14-18 & 21, drawn towards a method and apparatus for adjusting a plurality of images of a second side of a duplex sheet within a tandem style printing system, whereby a single first image is adjusted, based on the detection of a mark located on the transfer belt, and the following images are positioned with reference to the adjusted first image, classified in class 347, subclass 234.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I & II and III & IV are directed to related processes. The related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope, i.e., are mutually exclusive; the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants; and the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect. See MPEP § 806.05(j).

In the instant case, inventions I & II and III & IV have different designs. I & II are drawn towards a single image carrier while III & IV are drawn towards plural tandem image carriers. III & IV further require the detection of a mark disposed on the transfer belt, based on which an adjustment of an image position is made. Such limitations are not required in inventions I or II.

3. Inventions I and II are directed to related processes. The related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope, i.e., are mutually exclusive; the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants; and the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use

together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect. See MPEP § 806.05(j).

In the instant case, invention I and invention II have differing modes of operation. Invention I adjusts an image writing start position based on a distance from a beam detection to the image write start position; and invention II adjusts an image based on the image forming area. Also, according to applicant's disclosure, Invention I and invention II produce different results, invention I being better suited for smaller adjustments and invention II being better suited for larger adjustments.

4. Inventions III and IV are directed to related processes. The related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope, i.e., are mutually exclusive; the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants; and the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect. See MPEP § 806.05(j).

In the instant case, III and IV have differing modes of operation. IV makes an adjustment to a single image and requires an image-positioning device to set that image as a reference to other images, while III makes an adjustment to all images separately and requires no positioning device.

5. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

8. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

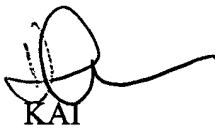
Art Unit: 2861

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kainoa BK Wright whose telephone number is (571) 272-5102.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vip Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2458. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KAI', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

06/01/06